Reference Committee Staff Report

To	Infrastructure and Community Investment
Subject	Lakehead University STEM Hub Rec Pass Agreement
Date	May 13, 2026
Ward	All
From	K. Datema, Director Recreation & Culture Services
Executive Member Approval	J. Schmidt, General Manager of Community and Corporate Services
CAO Approval	M. Prowse, Chief Administrative Officer
Staff Report #	CCS-015-2026

Recommendation(s):

1. That staff be authorized to execute the Memorandum of Agreement attached as Appendix A to Staff Report CCS-015-2026 concerning the Lakehead University STEM Hub for student Rec PASS usage at the City of Barrie Facilities for the 2026/2027 academic year. (CCS-015-2026)

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Lakehead University STEM Hub (Barrie) Campus for the 2026/2027 academic year to provide their students with a Rec PASS to be utilized at City of Barrie Facilities at a bulk purchase rate. The agreement also includes an option for an additional one-year term.

Key Findings:

Students at Lakehead University STEM Hub (Barrie) Campus pay a campus recreation fee as part of their annual tuition fees which allows for access to campus recreation and fitness opportunities for those students who wish to obtain and consistently use a Rec Pass. While all students pay a recreation fee, it is not equivalent to the full individual Rec Pass.

Lakehead University STEM Hub (Barrie) Campus has an estimated student population of approximately 250 students for the 2026/2027 academic year with growth projections of 700-800 students over a five-year horizon. Based on statistics from Lakehead University and the City of Orillia, where a similar Memorandum of Agreement exists, approximately 200 of 2,100 enrolled students accessed City of Orillia facilities for fitness and recreation purposes on a regular basis. Lakehead is looking for similar access to City of Barrie Recreation Facilities to provide more seamless access for

their Barrie Campus students.

Staff have met with university representatives to review and negotiate student access to the City of Barrie Recreation Facilities. A proposal consisting of $10,732.50 + HST for Lakehead Barrie Rec Pass memberships for the 2026/2027 school year has been negotiated. The rates and fees being offered this year would not be considered as a precedent for future negotiations, however, have been set based on the current student Rec Pass rate and Corporate Rec Pass discounts. This agreement entitles Lakehead University STEM Hub (Barrie) campus students to have access to the same amenities included in the current City of Barrie Rec Pass membership.

Financial Implications:

The financial impact will vary based on the number of Lakehead students that opt to register for a Rec Pass with the City of Barrie. If less than 25 students register for a Rec Pass, the City is expected to receive the base revenues as reported above. If more than 25 students register for a Rec Pass, further revenues will be realized by the City.

Should usage be higher than anticipated, language has been included in the agreement that ensures that Lakehead University reimburses the City of Barrie for any student participation in excess of the usage-equivalent of 25 members, in groups of 5, at a rate of $2,146.50 + HST per group.

Alternatives:

The following alternatives are available for consideration by Committee:

Alternative #1 – Committee could maintain the existing service levels and not enter into an agreement with Lakehead University. This option is not recommended as the city would not receive, at minimum, $10,732 in additional revenue in 2026. It may also result in Lakehead University establishing a partnership with an alternative fitness provider in the area.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

Affordable Place to Live		
Community Safety		
Thriving Community	X	Partnering with local academic institutions to improve access to provide low cost/no-cost Rec Pass memberships directly relates to Thriving Community as it expands and maximizes access to parks and recreation opportunities.
Infrastructure Investments		
Responsible Governance		

Additional Background Information and Analysis:

Current Rec Pass rates & fees are outlined below:

Monthly recPASS fees (+ HST)	
Child (12 yrs & under)	$28.00
Youth (13 yrs – 17 yrs)	$28.00
Adult (18 yrs +)	$39.75
Senior (60 yrs +)	$28.00
Senior Couple	$49.75
Special Needs Adult	$28.00
Family*	$65.50

The Lakehead Rec Pass agreement is based on the following formula:

- Approximate student enrollment figure of 250 students x 10% uptake (based on stats from the Orillia model) x Monthly Adult Rec Pass rate x Student Discount (10%) x 12 months.
- 1 membership is based on an individual who uses the Rec Pass twice per week.
- City of Barrie tracks Lakehead Rec Pass holders' usage through recreation software scan data.
- At the end of April and again at the end of August, the total number of scans for all student Rec Pass holders are identified and divided by a 2 scan per week formula over the reporting period to determine overall use.
- If use demonstrates that base membership of 25 Rec Passes has been exceeded based on the scan review, the agreement allows to increase this figure in multiples of 5 Rec Passes.

Consultation and Engagement:

There was no public consultation required in relation to this staff report.

Environmental and Climate Change Impact Matters:

There are no environmental and/or climate change impact matters related to the recommendation.

Appendix:

Appendix A – Lakehead University STEM Hub (Barrie) Rec Pass Agreement

Report Author:

C. Gillard, Manager Recreation & Culture Business Services

File #:

Pending #:

Not Applicable